

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

OL. XXXV NO. 20

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

MAY 15, 1980

10 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

Duplin Register Of Deeds Race Decided In Final Count

Duplin County political interest last week was centered on the close race for register of deeds in the Democratic primary, a race not decided until the final precincts were counted early Wednesday.

Christine Whaley Williams, the 28-year veteran of the post, forged ahead.

The final unofficial tally was 3,941 votes for Ms. Williams and 3,490 for Ann Hunter of Chinquapin. Ms. Hunter led in 11 precincts and Ms. Williams in 10.

The runner-up candidate for the single board of education seat open in the primary said Wednesday he intends to call for a runoff vote next month. The incumbent, G. Frederick Rhodes of Smith's Township, will lose his seat when the new board member is sworn into office in April. His 1,574 votes ranked him third among the four candidates.

Topping the board of education field was Faye C. Bryant of Rose Hill with 2,344 votes. Second was Hilbert Joe Swinson of Albertson Township with 1,721 votes. To obtain a clear majority, a candidate needed 3,507 votes in the race.

Board of education members are elected to 6-year terms on a partisan ballot. However, the winner of the Democratic primary will face no opposition in November. John (Steve) Kilpatrick of Kenansville ranked fourth in the race with 1,373 votes.

Terms of county commissioners representing District 1, comprising Warsaw and Faison Townships, and District 5, including Rose Hill, Magnolia and Kenansville Townships, will expire in December.

D.J. Fussell of Rose Hill failed to win a majority in the District 5 race and may face a runoff challenge from runner-up J.B. Stroud of Magnolia. Stroud had not stated his intention on the

matter by press time. Fussell received 877 votes and Stroud, 460. Robert Lee Allen of Magnolia received 441. Fussell came within 13 votes of the 890 he needed for a clear majority. Commissioners are voted on only by the voters of their districts.

W.J. Costin won his race for District 1 by receiving 732 votes to 513 for Allen Vann

Morrisey and 193 for A.C. Lockamy. No Republican candidates filed for either seat.

Election Board Chairman Claude Hepler said 8,194 persons voted out of a total registration of 21,116.

Tenth District Representative Doug Clark won with 4,627 to 2,791 votes for Lloyd Stevens.

Results on Page 8

Swinson Files For Run-Off

Hilbert Joe Swinson of Mount Olive filed last Friday for a run-off in the race for the seat on the Duplin Board of Education.

Swinson received the second highest number of votes which entitled him to call for a run-off with candidate Faye C. Bryant of Rose

Hill. Swinson, the assistant principal of Beulaville Elementary School, received 1,721 votes to Bryant's 2,344.

"I am requesting a run-off at this time to offer the approximately 3,000 supporters of Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Kilpatrick the opportunity which they deserve to determine which of the two remaining candidates will serve the people of Duplin County in such a responsible position for the next six years," Swinson said.

While teaching in the public schools, Swinson has coached baseball and football and he served three years as assistant principal of Charity Junior High before taking the job at Beulaville Elementary. He is married and two of Swinson's four children are graduates of Duplin County schools. Swinson has a B.S. degree from Pembroke State University and a master's degree in education and school administration and supervision from Bowie State College in Maryland.

Faye Bryant, candidate for the board of education, is a 1976 graduate of Fayetteville State University where she received a B.A. degree in social sciences. Bryant is currently teaching part-time at James Sprunt Technical College.

According to Swinson, North Carolina laws will prohibit him from serving on the Duplin Board of Education at the same time he is employed in the public schools of the county. If elected, Swinson said, he would seek employment in another county in order to serve on the Duplin County board. And, Swinson added, he would continue to serve at his present job until the law would require him to resign, which would be the day before being sworn into office in April of 1981.

A motion was made to accept the department proposal as presented by Hawkins, and the motion carried with only Commissioner William Fennell opposing the proposal. Fennell stated that more study of the proposal should be done with the local citizens and merchants having more of an input. Town Administrator Woody Brinson was instructed to send a letter to the Department of Transportation accepting the proposal for the addition of a turning lane to the downtown section of Highway 11. Brinson was also instructed to request that the speed limit on Highway 11 between the intersection with 24 at the Scotchman convenience store and James Sprunt Technical College be raised at least to 45 miles an hour.

The board met with representatives from the Kenansville Volunteer Fire Department to discuss the expansion of the fire station/town hall combination building. And the board unanimously



PHENIUS PICKETT IN THE 1980 LIBERTY CART - Steve Porter of Murray, Kentucky, will be playing the role of Phenius Pickett, the peddler through whom the story of Duplin County's heritage is told in THE LIBERTY CART, an outdoor drama. The drama, performed on the stage of the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Amphitheatre in Kenansville, will begin its season July 18 with performances each

Thursday through Sunday night until August 24. Porter is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, where he received a degree in theatre. THE LIBERTY CART will be his second performance in an outdoor drama; he portrayed Daniel Boone last summer at Harrodsburg, Ky., in the outdoor drama of the Legend of Daniel Boone.

Photo by Emily Killette

Sen. Hardison Speaks At Goshen Groundbreaking Ceremony

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Goshen Medical Center were held Saturday, May 10, with Senator Harold Hardison as guest speaker.

Hardison challenged the Goshen board of directors and the Faison community to continue to improve upon the medical center. He termed the groundbreaking a major item in the lives of the citizens.

"This facility is going to be one of the finest facilities known to man. It may not be one of the largest," Hardison said, "but the citizens in Faison will only know its value after it opens."

"Things that cost the most and worked for the hardest are the things that you appreciate the most," Hardison added. And he said that Faison would be one of the first communities with a facility such as the Goshen Medical Center, which Hardison said would be the route of medical services in the future.

Contracts for the Goshen Medical Center were let May 6th. Construction of the 5,000 square foot building was awarded to Patrick Construction Company in Fayetteville. The medical center received a federal Rural Health Incentive grant for \$312,000 to construct the building, and the total costs

after contracts were let was \$290,530. An additional \$80,000-\$90,000 will be needed to equip the two medical wings and the dentistry wing of the building.

Construction of the building is scheduled to start within the next 30 days, and the building will be complete 160 days after construction begins. Glenn Jernigan, chairman of the Goshen Medical Center Board of Directors, said during the groundbreaking ceremony.

About 50 citizens attended the groundbreaking, including members of the Goshen Board of Directors, County Commissioners William Costin and Calvin C. Turner, County Manager Ralph Cottle, U.S. Health and Human Services Department Project Officer Alex Dobson, Goshen Medical Center Director George Wallace and Faison Mayor Bill Carter.

Goshen Medical Center is owned by a private nonprofit corporation which was formed in 1978 by 21 citizens in Faison, Wolfscrape and Glisson Townships. And the entire project has been funded by grants from the Rural Health Initiative, with the land for the building being donated by the Luther Taylor family of Faison.

The goal of the project is to

draw long-term medical services to the Faison community, and the medical center will be constructed to accommodate two medical doctors and one dentist. A dentist, Dr. Bob Carmen, has been recruited, and the physician recruitment efforts are still underway, said Wallace, director of the medical center.

Store Destroyed By Fire

The Major Kornegay store and service station on U.S. 117 north of Magnolia was destroyed by fire Sunday.

Town Commissioner Melvin Pope said he found the building engulfed in flames when he arrived with the first Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department truck to arrive at the scene.

Mrs. Major Kornegay, wife of the owner, said she did not know the extent of the loss. She said the SBI investigated and told her the fire started at the fuse box. The business provided the family with most of their income, she added. She said they had \$18,000 insurance on the building and contents. Nothing was saved at the store, she added.

Kenansville Board

Approves Downtown Turning Lanes

During the regular monthly meeting last week, the Kenansville town board voted to accept a proposal from the Department of Transportation adding a turning lane to Highway 11 in downtown Kenansville.

Spokesman for DOT, Roger Hawkins, presented the board with a sketch showing the turn lane in the area between the Lodge Street intersection with Highway 11 and the Rutledge Street intersection. Hawkins informed the board that parking would no longer be possible with the addition of a turning lane to the downtown section of Highway 11, but only parking between Jackson's IGA and the Western Auto store would be affected by the proposal.

After traffic counts and studies done by DOT, Hawkins said, traffic lights were not considered to be the best solution to Kenansville's traffic problems. However, he added that an additional study of the intersection of Highways 11 and 50 will be conducted this fall after the new elementary school is opened. Hawkins indicated that the intersection would receive priority if the transportation department issued traffic lights in Kenansville. The intersection of Highways 24 and 11 would be the department's second priority for lights.

A motion was made to accept the department proposal as presented by Hawkins, and the motion carried with only Commissioner William Fennell opposing the proposal. Fennell stated that more study of the proposal should be done with the local citizens and merchants having more of an input. Town Administrator Woody Brinson was instructed to send a letter to the Department of Transportation accepting the proposal for the addition of a turning lane to the downtown section of Highway 11. Brinson was also instructed to request that the speed limit on Highway 11 between the intersection with 24 at the Scotchman convenience store and James Sprunt Technical College be raised at least to 45 miles an hour.

The board met with representatives from the Kenansville Volunteer Fire Department to discuss the expansion of the fire station/town hall combination building. And the board unanimously

passed a motion to hire an architect to work up an expansion sketch and estimate costs to be brought before the board as soon as possible.

In 1972 the town entered into a contract with the fire department which allowed the town to locate offices in the fire station. The 15-year contract required the town to pay for the renovations to the fire station lounge and kitchen into office spaces, and the upkeep and the eventual replacement of the pumper truck, during the first five years of the agreement. Within the second five years, which Kenansville is now in, the town is required to build on additional office space and a bay for trucks. In the last five years of the agreement, the town will be required to expand the meeting room, which will

also serve as the election area. Upon the completion of the third phase, the fire department can make no other requests of the town, but both parties will continue to provide for the upkeep of the building.

The total expansion of the fire station will cost \$80,000, Fire Chief Lauren Sharpe estimated. Mayor Douglas Judge stated that as an alternative, the board could buy a building. However, Judge added, an estimated cost to purchase either the old Federal Land Bank or Production Credit Association building would be about \$125,000. According to the town administrator, the cost of expanding the fire station, if the board chose to do so, would raise the town tax rate about 4 1/2 cents.

If the board chooses to

expand the fire station, Sharpe said, the fire department would negotiate a loan with Farmers Home Administration for the cost of the project. According to Sharpe, the Kenansville Fire Department would receive a 5% interest rate from the FmHA, which is lower than the town could borrow the money. However, Sharpe encouraged the board to make a decision as quickly as possible before the interest rate on FmHA loans increases in the fall.

The board moved to hire an architect to design the expansion of the building for both the second and third five-year periods and present the board with estimated costs. The board agreed to schedule a special meeting to further discuss the expansion as soon as the architect finishes the plans and determines the cost of the project.

Duplin Valuation Up \$10.4 Million

Duplin County's assessed valuation has increased \$10,401,630 in the past year. Tax Supervisor Frank B. Moore reported last Monday at the County Commissioners' first sitting in 1980 as a board of equalization and review.

No one appeared to protest individual tax valuations Monday. The board will hold its second equalization and review session at 2 p.m. on May 19.

Moore said the county's total valuation is expected to top \$600 million this year. Last year's valuation was \$585 million. Much of the increased valuation came from new poultry houses, he said.

In Limestone Township, where the increase was \$1,154,955, turkey houses operated by James Albertson and Ward Rouse accounted for \$165,760; a new store to replace one that burned, for \$152,410.

Buildings to house swine operations accounted for \$577,000 of the \$743,910 increase in Magnolia Township. Carrolls of Warsaw and Wendell Murphy of Rose Hill added hog buildings.

Additions to Guilford Mills and Reeves Brothers plants

accounted for \$770,000 of the \$1,602,620 increase in Kenansville Township. Four turkey houses built by Jack Stephens added another \$82,000.

The Glendale Apartments in Wallace added \$666,190 to the Island Creek Township increase, which totaled \$1.8 million.

In other business, the commissioners awarded a contract for kitchen equipment for preparing meals for the elderly to Thompson and Little of Wilmington on a bid of \$34,526.88. The equip-

ment will be installed in the kitchen of the former county jail building in Kenansville.

Moore, who is also veterans' service officer, said \$2,862,488 came into the county in the past year in the form of Veterans Administration checks for insurance, vocational rehabilitation and disability compensation.

The hearing on revenue sharing funds was unattended. The board expects to receive \$780,000 in federal revenue sharing money this year, a drop of \$60,000 from last year.

Killed In Home Fire

A 24-year-old woman was killed Friday when her mobile home near Rose Hill burned while she slept.

Police said Patricia Ann Frederick died when a fire swept through her trailer at the city limits of Rose Hill. Police Chief James C.

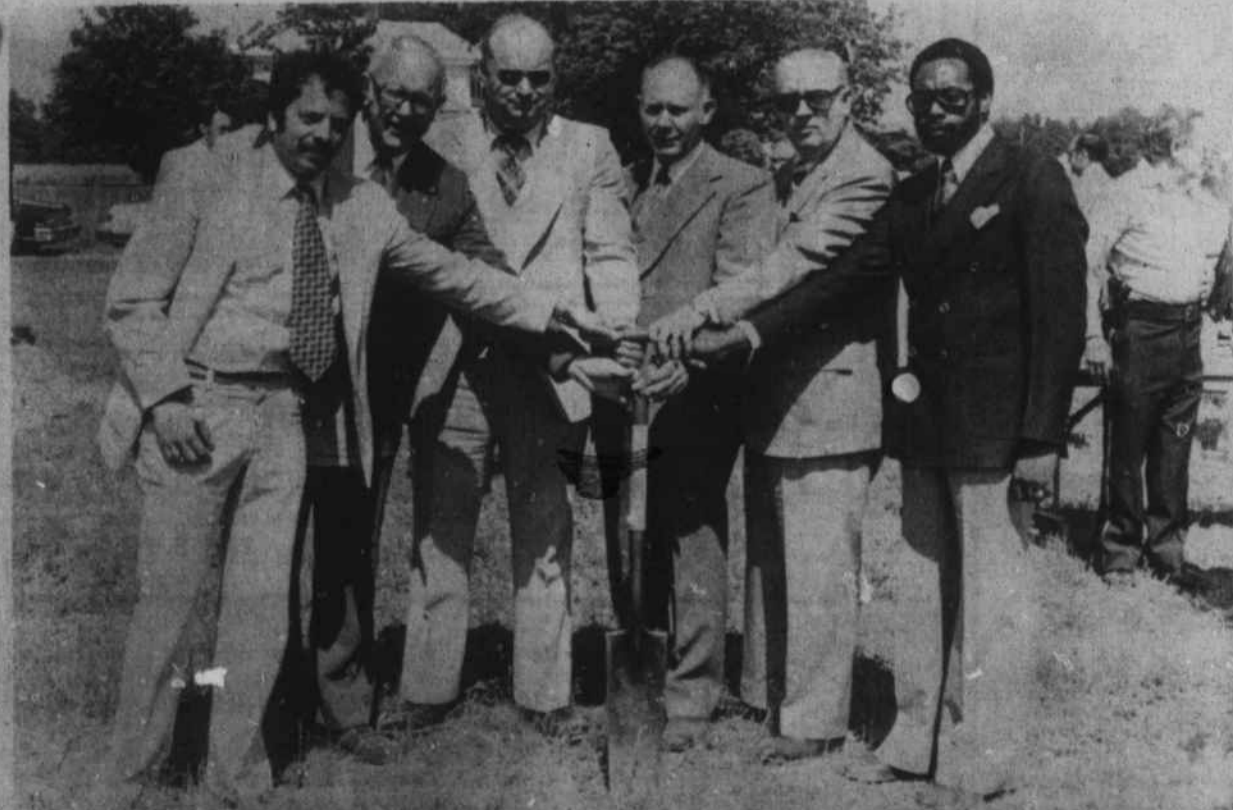
Masters said the fire apparently began about 3:10 a.m. in the kitchen of the trailer. He said Miss Frederick had been cooking.

Miss Frederick's 4-year-old daughter was with her grandparents at the time of the fire and was not injured.

Loan Funds Delayed

Larry Cherry, Charlotte district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration stated last week that the agency is temporarily out of disaster loan monies due to

the large number of natural disasters across the country in recent months. However, the agency will continue to accept and process loan applications



GOSHEN MEDICAL CENTER GROUNDBREAKING - Senator Harold Hardison and Alex Dobson from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta, Ga., were among the many guests on hand for the groundbreaking ceremonies for Goshen Medical Center. The center is designed to provide office space and equipment for two physicians and one dentist. Construction is scheduled to begin within the next 30 days. Pictured, left to right, Goshen Medical Center Director George Wallace, Faison Mayor Bill Carter, Chairman of Goshen Medical Center Board of Directors Glenn Jernigan, Faison veterinarian, Dr. Frank Taylor, Hardison and Dobson.

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